

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Honda et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0005842) (hereinafter "Honda '842") in view of Honda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,950,114) (hereinafter "Honda '114").

Claims 4-6 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 4-6 remain currently pending and under consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Honda '842 in view of Honda '114. Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 4-6 are allowed. As claims 4-6 are the only claims remaining in this application, this application is now in prima-facie condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after

consideration of this response; the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

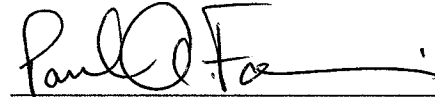
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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